

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Sale of captive power plants by SAIL**

2494. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has any propose to sell its captive power plants to reduce loss and to get more fund;

(b) if so, the reasons for constructing captive power plants in the past; and

(c) the reasons for distancing with them at present explaining the change that has caused the about-turn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Government has approved SAIL's proposal for Financial & Business Restructuring, which includes conversion of some of the captive power plants of SAIL into a joint venture.

(b) In view of the unsatisfactory experience with the supply of power from utility grids/Electricity Boards, associated with conditions like load restrictions, improper voltage/frequency levels, occasional interruptions, captive power plants were set up to supplement the utility supply, to ensure rhythm of production and for the safety of personnel & equipment.

(c) Even after formation of the joint venture, the power generated would still be captive to the steel plants.

**Import of steel**

2495. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing steel from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether import of steel leads to decline in the prices of steel in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to assist our steel industry?